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**MASSACHUSETTS DRIVERS TO PAY \$428 MILLION MORE FOR GAS
THIS SUMMER COMPARED TO LAST YEAR**

Report Released by Markey, Tierney Shows Effect of Higher Gas Prices on MA Drivers

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Representative John F. Tierney (D-MA), the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform's Energy Policy Subcommittee, today released an analysis of gasoline prices in Massachusetts that indicates that increased gas prices could force motorists in the Commonwealth to pay a total of approximately \$428 million more for gas during this summer's driving season than they did last summer. The analysis was prepared by the Democratic staff of the Committee on Government Reform at the request of Rep. Markey and Rep. Tierney.

The results were announced this week during a television program, which will begin airing soon on cable access channels across the Sixth Congressional District. In addition to Congressman Tierney, guests on the show included Congressman Markey and Carol Browner, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for eight years during the Clinton Administration.

"When Massachusetts families head to vacations this summer, they'll need to spend an average of \$180 more to fill up their gas tanks than they did last summer. The Bush Administration's failure to take action to provide consumers with lower gas prices is placing a heavy burden on American consumers just as the summer driving season approaches," Rep. Markey said.

"High gas prices are wreaking havoc on the budgets of Massachusetts families. The facts speak for themselves. If the Bush Administration would live up to their campaign promises and encourage OPEC to lower prices and increase production, and if it would investigate the rampant consolidation within the industry and closures of refineries, American consumers would see relief from these record prices at the pump," said Tierney.

The report released today contains the following information:

- On a per-driver basis, the increased gas prices will cost the average driver in Massachusetts more than \$90 over the summer months.
- The average price for a gallon of gas in Massachusetts is 57 cents higher at the start June 2004 than it was one year ago.

"While these high prices haven't slowed down drivers, they deserve honest answers about the factors which are driving up the costs of fuel. I was pleased to be with Congressman Markey and former Administrator Browner on the cable show and believe we had a good discussion not only about why gas prices are so high, but also about the solutions that will keep this problem from reoccurring. The Bush Administration and their friends in Congress continue to keep up the drumbeat that passing their energy bill will provide consumers with immediate relief, but that is

simply not the case. Their energy bill is anti-consumer, loaded with perks for special interests and does nothing to lower the cost of gasoline,” said Tierney.

“This report provides further evidence that consumers are hurting because the Bush Administration is unwilling to stand up to OPEC, and get them to increase production, or to take on the big oil companies, to get them to stop price gouging,” Rep. Markey concluded.

Additional information on Rep. Markey’s initiatives in this area is available on his Web site at <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

To view a copy of the report in its entirety please visit Congressman Tierney’s website at <http://www.house.gov/tierney>.

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